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DIVIDED LOYALTES

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Jason Kander Secretary of State CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE

MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

Front cover: Detail from an illustration of the Battle of Springfield, 1861. Harper's Weekly

Jason Kander - Secretary of State

ivided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives examines the upheaval and uncertainty that characterized Missouri during the Civil War era. Drawing on more than nine million pages of Civil War-related documents and court cases, the exhibit goes beyond the stories of battles and military strategy to consider the charged atmosphere of social conflict that permeated the state for the two decades that followed the Kansas Border Wars of the mid-1850s.

The exhibit opens with a look at pre-Civil War Missouri and the role the institution of slavery played in the state's culture and economy. This section of the exhibit includes a look at the way in which slavery was protected in Missouri's first constitution. It shows how slaves were treated as property that could be bought, sold, and distributed by probate courts. It also features the famous court case brought by Dred and Harriet Scott, two slaves seeking their freedom in St. Louis.

Divided Loyalties shows how the issue of slavery split Missouri's white population. Though an 1861 state convention determined that the state would not leave the Union, Federal troops advanced on Jefferson City, forcing Governor

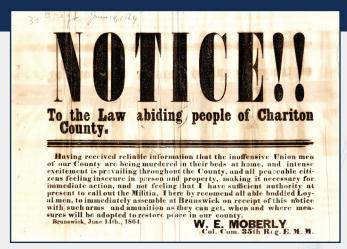
SHERIFF'S SALE UNDER EXECUTION. ON SATURDAY the 9th day of May, 1863, I will of-fer for sale openly and publicly, by auction to the highest bidder for eash in eash in hand, between the hours of nine o'clock a. m. and five o'clock p. m. of said day, before the Court House door in the town of Columbia, Boone county, Mo., the following slaves to wit: Matilda aged about 15 years, Catharine about 9 years, Julia Ann 15 " George 25 "
Also 3 Jennetts, I Jack 3 years old, 1 Jack 2 years old, 4 Mares, I yearling Colt, 3 milch Cows, I yoke of Steers; I.S all the right, title and interest of Elijah E. Chrisman, in and to the following slaves to wit: Sam aged about 45 years, Rosey aged about 10 years, 40 Mary Venia Тор 19 " Fillmore Susan 18 " Lizzie Charlotte Dilla aged 7 months, Howard aged 12 years. A.L.SO all the right, title and interest of Felix b. Latorce in and to the following slaves to wit: Polly aged about 18 years and Sam aged about 7 years. April 15, 1863.

Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Missouri State Guard to abandon the state capitol. The exhibit includes documents from both Missouri's prosouthern elected state "government in exile" and the federally-backed provisional government that took its place in June 1861.

Documents gathered from the Missouri Adjutant General's Office, such as muster roles, company histories and military correspondence, shed light on the lives of soldiers who

Sheriff's sale bill, Boone County, Missouri, 1863. *Missouri State Archives* Recruitment poster, Chariton County, Missouri, 1864. Missouri State Archives

Background: Detail from an illustration of the Battle of Carthage, 1861. Harper's Weekly



fought within the state and elsewhere during the war. These documents also show that during the war, even those Missourians who did not serve in the military could be subjected to suspicion, discrimination and even violence at the hands of Union troops and bushwhackers alike.

More than one-third of *Divided Loyalties* is devoted to the challenges Missourians faced during the decade after the war's end. The state's 1865 constitution, written immediately after the war, included a provision that disenfranchised a large portion of the state's population. Anyone suspected of sympathizing with the Confederacy was prevented from voting, holding elected office, becoming a minister, or teaching school. The exhibit includes several court cases in which Missourians fought to regain their lost rights. Other lawsuits were aimed at settling grievances over crimes committed during the war. The exhibit includes cases that seek restitution for murder, theft, slander and vandalism.

Because the courts were not prepared to resolve all of the wrongs committed during the war, many Missourians turned to vigilante violence to settle disputes. Most famous among those attempting to even the score through crime were brothers Frank and Jesse James. *Divided Loyalties* includes several court cases and documents that chronicle various attempts to bring the James brothers and other criminals to justice.

Through state documents and court cases, *Divided Loyalties* shows that the Civil War in Missouri was not fought solely on the battlefield. The conflicts that surrounded the war were so divisive that they affected civilian and soldier alike.